

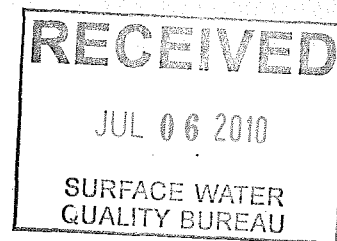


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUN 30 2010

Ron Curry, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502



Re: Request for EPA Review and Approval for "Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Middle Rio Grande Watershed"

Dear Mr. Curry:

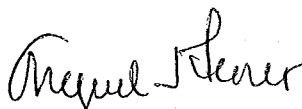
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the final total maximum daily load (TMDL) package titled, "*Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report for the Middle Rio Grande Watershed*" for five (5) TMDLs. Based on our review, we conclude that the TMDLs listed above meet the requirements found in Section §303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR §130.7. Therefore the EPA is pleased to approve the TMDL loads for the waters listed below.

<u>Water Body</u>	<u>Subsegment Number</u>	<u>Pollutant of Concern</u>
Rio Grande – Isleta Pueblo Boundary to Alameda Bridge	NM-2105_50	Escherichia coli
Rio Grande – Non-Pueblo Alameda to Angostura Diverson	NM-2105.1_00	Escherichia coli
Rio Grande – Rio Puerco to Isleta Pueblo Boundary	NM-2105_40	Escherichia coli
Rio Grande – San Marcial to USGS Gage to Rio Puerco	NM-2105_10	Escherichia coli and Alumnum

We note that you have included an aggregate Escherichia coli wasteload allocation (WLA) for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) Phase II permittees. The MS4 Phase II permit expires on June 30, 2012. In order for the WLA for the Phase II permittees to be implementable in upcoming MS4 permits, NMED may need to provide to EPA, prior to current permit expiration, a mechanism to allow calculation of WLAs for individual MS4s. For future TMDLs, EPA strongly encourages NMED to provide separate WLAs for each covered entity.

We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing this TMDL. If you would like to discuss this approval, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or your staff may contact Linda Adams at (214)665-6546.

Sincerely yours,



Miguel I. Flores
Director

Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure